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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 21 | Humidity 70% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 73,134 | Nifty 22,679 | Gold 1,52,950 | Silver 2,55,000 | Dollar 94.83 | Euro 110.26 | GBP 125.63

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Electric record

Wednesday saw 400% spike from average daily EV registrations as 1,300 new vehicles registered across 11 RTOs in city

CITY / PAGE 3

Train spotting

Expansion across 3 corridors did not boost daily ridership of Metro as it hovers around 10-lakh mark, falling short of projections

Can there be a more miserable sight? Heaps of garbage collected from clogged diversion channel at Kaggadasapura Lake lies by the bund as migrant workers, who had to enter chamber to clean it up with their hands without safety measures, sit nearby

IN TOO DEEP

Jetting machine sent by BWSSB proves ineffective so work was done manually

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Despite shocking incidents of workers losing their lives to suffocation while cleaning manholes at different locations in the city, it seems the authorities concerned are yet to wake up to the need to protect workers engaged to clean sewers or drains.

This, when Bengaluru already carries a shame of three workers, including a supervisor, engaged by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), having died due to asphyxiation after they entered a manhole for repairs on Kaggadasapura Main Road in CV Raman Nagar Assembly constituency on March 7, 2017.

On March 30, the authorities went ahead and engaged workers to clean a massive chamber of a diversion channel along Kaggadasapura Lake. The BWSSB sent a jetting machine, but workers had to enter the chamber to remove huge quantities of plastic and garbage to facilitate smooth flow of dirty water. It is not clear why the authorities had not put in place measures to ensure that storm water drains, supposed to carry rainwater to Kaggadasapura Lake, is not clogged with garbage in the first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"The contractor did not inform me about making workers enter the chamber. I will advise the contractor to ensure it is not done again without safety measures

– Jayashree, BECC Assistant Engineer

PEAFOWL PLAY

As visitors note fewer sightings and calls of peacocks on Jnanabharathi Campus, reducing green cover, littering, fire incidents said to be behind fauna loss

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The population of peacocks, India's national bird, is witnessing a sharp decline in the lush Jnanabharathi Campus of Bangalore University, raising serious concerns among environmentalists and morning walkers. Once known for its rich green cover resembling a forest amid the city's concrete landscape, the campus is now seeing a noticeable drop in peacock sightings and their calls.

The 1,200-acre Jnanabharathi campus, which houses a biodiversity park, has long served as a habitat for a wide range of wildlife, including wild rabbits, snakes, mongooses, foxes and nearly 180 species of birds, along with over 150 varieties of butterflies and several insects. Its proximity to Turahalli Forest has also led to sightings of animals such as porcupines and deer. However, increasing environmental stress is now threatening this fragile ecosystem.

Observers note that peacocks, once commonly seen in groups along the campus roads during early mornings and evenings, are now rarely spotted. Their numbers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Fun-filled weekend

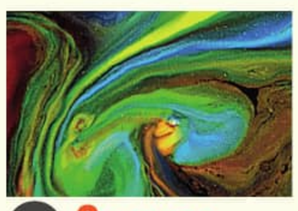
Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru will be transformed into a vibrant playground with the launch of Playland, bringing together creativity, play and fun under one roof. Children can explore engaging toy exhibitions, interactive play zones, and hands-on workshops designed to spark creativity and imagination. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: April 4, 12 pm**

02 Mind matters

Marking World Autism Awareness Day, Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing will be having a free autism consultation, with a senior speech-language pathologist offering screening, early guidance, and expert consultation for children with communication and developmental concerns. **Where: Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, Hebbal; When: April 2**

03 Caffeine collective

Sattva Group is hosting a Coffee Rave, designed to attract young, urban consumers looking for a vibrant community and wellness-led lifestyle. The event features a lively music party, coffee and curated light food. **Where: Sattva City; When: April 4, 9 am**



04 Canvas craft

Sublime Galleria presents Illumination, an evocative exhibition of Bhaskar Gauribidanur's black and white and abstract photography that explores light, shadow, emotion, and timeless expression. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: Until April 5**

05 Art of the future

The 9th edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) is being held under the theme 'Tomorrow, Altered!', featuring over 300 works across fine art, sculptures, installations, photography exhibitions, and curated artist showcases. **Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road; When: Until April 12**

Electric surge in EV sales

Following sudden rush in EV purchases, registrations cross 50K mark in Karnataka since start of year

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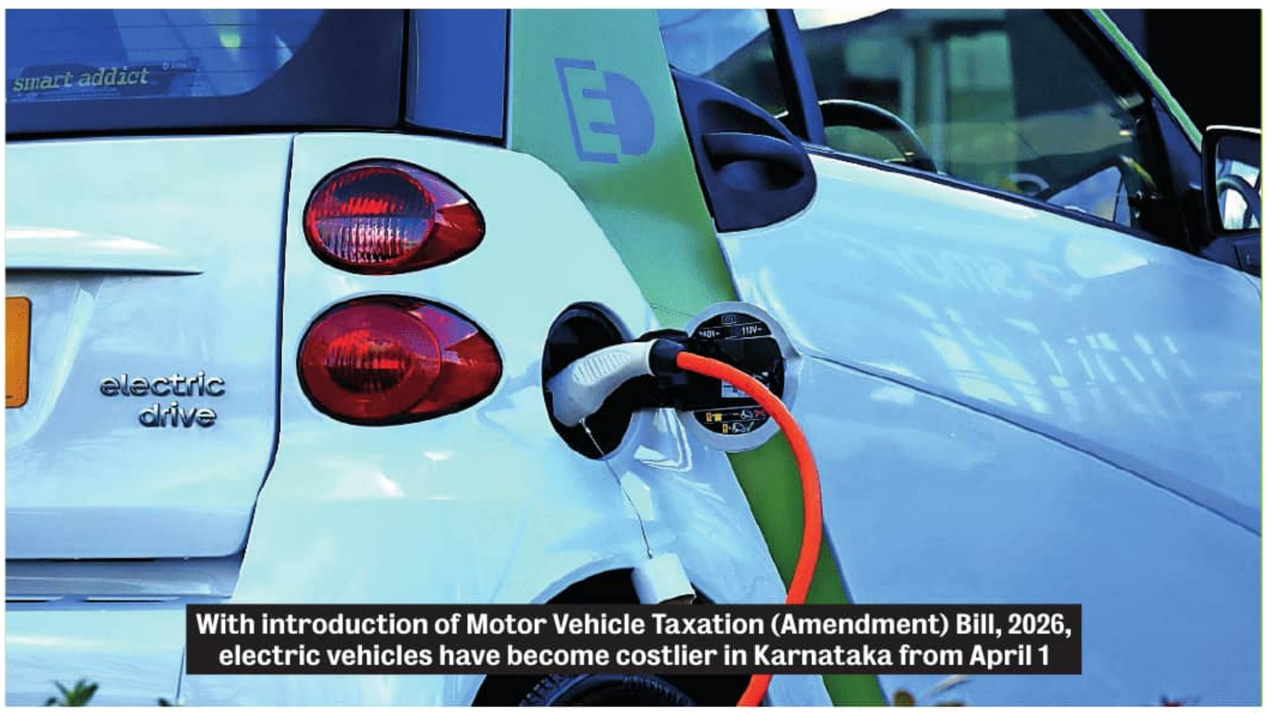

With introduction of Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, electric vehicles have become costlier in Karnataka from April 1

On Tuesday, more than 1,300 pure electric vehicles were registered across 11 RTOs in Bengaluru, according to Vahan Dashboard statistics.

This is a nearly 400 per cent increase in average daily EV registrations in the city. So far in 2026, on average, 267 EVs were registered per day. Last year, fewer than one pure battery-operated vehicle was registered in Bengaluru in one day.

This astronomical surge in registration of new EVs is due to the Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which came into effect on April 1.

With this Bill, electric vehicles in Karnataka have become costlier. "This surge, to some extent, can be attributed to the recent Bill passed in the State assembly. Many who were postponing their plan to buy an EV were compelled to buy. Moreover, it is also because with time, more people are getting comfortable with the idea of battery-operated vehicles. The recent fuel crisis due to the ongoing situation in West Asia has a role to play," said a city-based mobility expert.

BangaloreMirror
All roads lead to the EV store

BM published a story 'All roads lead to the EV store' on April 1, 2026, highlighting sharp increase in EV bookings over last week

Under the new tax regime, electric cars costing up to Rs 10 lakh will attract a lifetime tax of 5 per cent of the total vehicle cost. Battery-operated cars in the range of Rs 10 to Rs 25 lakh will attract 8 per cent of the total cost, and those above Rs 25 lakh will attract 10 per cent of the total cost of the vehicle at the time of registration. Most EVs in Karnataka till date enjoyed zero lifetime road tax, except those above Rs 25 lakh, which were already subjected to a lifetime tax of 10 per cent.

Big jump across Karnataka

Electric vehicle registration in Karnataka has already crossed the 50K mark this year.

Between January and March, as many as 54,338 new battery-operated vehicles have been registered across the state, registering a surge of more than 40 per cent when compared with new vehicle registration data of last year. In March alone, nearly 25,000 pure EV vehicles were registered. In the given period last year, only a little over 35,000 EVs were registered across Karnataka.

Out of the total newly registered vehicles in the state, more than 25,000 vehicles are from Bengaluru. In 2025, just over 17,000 new EVs were registered in the city between January and March. Experts, however, say the government's intention behind the new tax slabs for electric vehicles, which is to generate revenue, is not strategic foresight. Taxation should be a larger part of the push-and-pull strategy for demand management and sustainable mobility. Moreover, private cars, whether battery-operated or fossil fuel-based, need to be discouraged. While private vehicles should be discouraged by imposing tax, electric buses or any kind of shared mobility system, even delivery vehicles need to be encouraged.

"Private four-wheelers do not encourage the sustainable mobility agenda. Given the current fossil fuel crisis, switching to an alternative source of power and mode of commuting is a wise choice. However, if the agenda of sustainable mobility does not receive the desired push, while we may achieve certain goals of environmental impact, vehicular traffic will continue to remain our prime concern. Private vehicles, whether battery-operated or ICE, need to be discouraged. Lest the demand for road infrastructure will never fade away. This will negatively impact livability," said Professor Ashish Verma, Convenor of Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Experts argue that government's intention behind new tax slabs for EVs does not reflect strategic foresight, stressing that taxation should form part of broader push and pull strategy for demand management and sustainable mobility

Infrastructure project delays become something to flex about

As Bengaluru marked April Fool's Day, a collective 'scream' echoed across the city. Citizen groups and individuals took to the streets in a series of public actions to protest against various infrastructure development programmes that are witnessing massive delays, disrupting the lives of many. The campaign initiated by Greenpeace India and a coalition of civil society groups under the Bengaluru Rising campaign was held against the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Arch Flyover, which has been delayed for over four years, and the Dommasandra Flyover, which has seen delays of nearly six years.

The campaign also raised objections against the state government's proposal to build a world-class convention centre on the 21-acre land owned by Mysore Lamp Works Limited, a public sector undertaking in Malleswaram. Those participating in the campaign raised concerns about the trade-offs between ecological preservation and large-scale development. "These are the projects where costs have escalated outrageously, and the projects remain incomplete, or they fail to solve the very problem that they were designed for," said Amruta SN, climate and energy campaigner at Greenpeace India. **— BMB**

Posters on incomplete flyovers put up by citizen group members

Revamp action plan urged for KR Market

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan within a week for the redevelopment of KR Market, one of the city's busiest commercial hubs. During an inspection, he emphasised improving waste management, road infrastructure, safety and connectivity. Officials have been asked to assess and install CCTV cameras across key locations, repair damaged internal roads and lay concrete surfaces. The Commissioner also stressed the need to improve access to the flower market after traders flagged connectivity issues affecting daily operations.

To address sanitation concerns, authorities will introduce scientific waste disposal systems, including trolleys, crates and dedicated sheds. In a move to ease congestion, a newly developed parking facility with space for 400 two-wheelers and 200 cars will be opened soon. Additional directions include improving drainage ahead of monsoon, removing damaged fencing, enhancing pedestrian infrastructure and completing pending median work within a week. Officials have been asked to ensure timely execution with a clear completion timeline. **— BMB**

Parents flag rash driving by school bus drivers

Based on a viral post on X, the Voice of Parents Association stated that they are frustrated with rash driving and blocked a VIBGYOR School bus on Wednesday morning after its driver was found driving recklessly and narrowly missed hitting a child in HSR Layout. Long fed up with school buses repeatedly violating basic traffic rules, residents gathered and stopped the bus at 11 am, asking the driver to apologise on the spot. A handwritten complaint was submitted to the police station, stating that rash driving by such bus drivers has threatened the lives of many residents and children. Members of the Voice of Parents Association took pictures of the bus and highlighted parental concerns over unregulated school transportation. Parents also urged stricter enforcement of traffic norms in residential areas. **— BMB**

More tracks, fewer riders? Metro numbers disappoint

Namma Metro continues to hover around 10 lakh daily ridership, with experts citing limited interchanges, train shortages and last-mile connectivity gaps

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Despite expansion across three operational corridors, the daily ridership of Namma Metro continues to hover around the 10 lakh mark, falling short of earlier projections. Officials now expect passenger numbers to rise to around 12 lakh by the end of the year, provided upcoming lines such as the Pink Line become fully operational.

According to estimates by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, the metro system should ideally handle at least 15 lakh passengers daily. However, current figures indicate an average of only 9 to 10 lakh commuters. The highest daily ridership recorded so far stands at 10.73 lakh on March 18, while earlier peaks were seen during key events such as the inauguration of the Yellow Line and New Year's Eve, when revenues touched ₹3.8 crore in a single day.

Sources said that one of the major constraints affecting ridership is the shortage of trains. At present, 57 trains operate on the Purple and Green Lines, while only eight trains run on the Yellow Line. Though each six-coach train can carry up to 1,800 passengers, overcrowding during peak hours remains a persistent issue. Even with measures such as increasing frequency and extending service hours during festivals, holidays and major events like IPL matches, the system continues to face capacity challenges.

Officials expect ridership to reach 12 lakh soon

> **"Another critical factor is the limited number of interchanges. Currently, the network has only two major interchange points across nearly 96 km of metro lines**
>
> –Rama Kumari, an urban mobility expert

Rama Kumari, an urban mobility expert said, "Another critical factor is the limited number of interchanges. Currently, the network has only two major interchange points across nearly 96 km of metro lines." Urban transport experts believe that a higher number of interchanges would allow smoother route switching and attract more commuters. Additionally, last-mile connectivity remains a concern, with many passengers finding it difficult to access metro stations conveniently.

While efforts are being made in coordination with BMTC to provide feeder bus services, experts suggest that dedicated last-mile solutions such as e-bike services with fixed pick-up and drop points could help improve accessibility and increase ridership.

The much-awaited Pink Line, connecting Kalena Agrahara on Bannerghatta Road to Nagawara, is expected to play a key role in increasing passenger numbers. A 7.5 km elevated stretch is likely to be operational by mid-year, while the full 21.26 km corridor, including underground sections, is expected to be completed by late 2027 or early 2028.

Officials estimate that the Pink Line alone could add 80,000 to 90,000 passengers initially, eventually increasing by up to 1.5 lakh. With the Blue Line also expected to partially open by December, overall metro ridership in Bengaluru is projected to cross the 12 lakh mark.

Illegal smoking clouds Bengaluru nightlife scene

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A city-based senior oncologist has raised serious concerns over violations of anti-smoking laws in pubs and restaurants, highlighting the health risks posed by passive smoking and calling for stricter enforcement.

In a letter dated March 25, 2026, to the Commissioner of Police, Dr Ajaikumar alleged tobacco law violations at Watson's Pub in Ulsoor. During a March 14 visit around 9 pm, he and his associates observed widespread smoking across the premises without any designated smoking area, raising serious concerns over compliance. He added that videos and photographs documenting the alleged violations have been collected. Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Dr Ajaikumar said, "There is a clear law that prohibits smoking in restaurants. Even in outdoor areas, there is a clause that mandates a properly designated smoking zone. But what we are seeing is a complete disregard for these rules. Cancer rates are increasing, and passive smoking is a significant contributor." Expressing concern over enforcement, he said, "Nobody seems to be following the law, and there needs to be strict action from the police. This is a clear violation, and passive smoking significantly increases cancer risk. This is not just about one establishment, there are many restaurants where this is happening." Dr Ajaikumar also stressed the need for stronger visible compliance measures. "Every restaurant should display large boards clearly stating that smoking is not allowed except in designated areas. There must be proper enforcement by authorities to ensure these rules are followed." Calling it a matter of urgent public health concern, he said, "As an oncologist, this is deeply worrying. We are seeing the impact of tobacco-related diseases every day, and such negligence only adds to the burden." The complaint further urged the Bengaluru City Police to initiate strict action against establishments violating COTPA provisions and to undertake a broader enforcement drive across the city. While BM contacted the management of WATSON's Pub, the person mentioned that they have recieved the letter and would speak to Dr Ajaikumar for more clarity on this issue and will sort it out.

CRIME FILES

Tractor horror leaves dog crippled

A 22-year-old woman has filed a complaint with PETA India, leading to the registration of an FIR at Parappana Agrahara police station, alleging cruelty to an animal after a dog was severely injured when a tractor ran over it while it was sleeping.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred between 9 am on March 27 and 6 am on March 28, 2026, in front of Naksha and Dog Cricket Academy near Archi, along Doddanagaramangala Road. An unidentified individual allegedly drove a tractor negligently over the sleeping dog, leaving the animal disabled.

The complainant has urged authorities to take strict legal action against the driver. Police are yet to identify the accused and investigation is ongoing. **–BMB**

Nursing council head arrested for alleged misconduct

The Registrar of the State Nursing Council has been arrested by police following serious allegations of sexual harassment made by a woman in the city. The complaint was lodged at the Upparpet Police Station, after which an FIR was registered and action was initiated.

The accused has been identified as Dr K Mallu. According to the police, the incident took place at the Nursing Council office in Gandhinagar during working hours. In her complaint, the victim alleged that the accused sexually harassed her and touched her inappropriately. She further alleged that he pulled her towards him and attempted to force her into a car parked nearby.

Police said the accused misused the pretext of official interaction to behave inappropriately and make unwelcome advances. The complaint also states that he allegedly hugged the victim forcibly and touched her in an indecent manner, leaving her distressed.

The survivor approached the Upparpet Police Station soon after the incident and lodged a complaint on March 20. Police said a notice was issued to the accused, but he failed to respond, following which he was taken into custody. Investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Patrol rescues distressed woman

A young woman found walking alone in an intoxicated state after a quarrel with grandparents in the early hours of March 31 was safely escorted home by police personnel in Vidyaranyapura.

At around 2.49 am, a concerned citizen alerted the Namma 112 emergency helpline after noticing the woman near Sambhram College. Acting swiftly, Hoysala-169 patrol staff from Vidyaranyapura Police Station reached the spot within minutes.

Upon enquiry, the woman stated that she had left home after a quarrel with her grandparents and had consumed alcohol. The police team counselled her and contacted her family members.

The woman was later safely escorted to her residence and handed over to her grandparents, police said. **–BMB**

Whitefield cops save woman's life

Whitefield police personnel helped save a woman who allegedly attempted suicide at her residence in Immadihalli due to love failure.

According to police, around 4:18 pm, the woman called her boyfriend and threatened to end her life after he refused to marry her. Alarmed, he alerted the Namma 112 emergency helpline. The information was relayed to Head Constable Bangarappa of the Cheetah-310 patrol team.

The police reached the house near Techno School Road within 13 minutes and found the woman attempting suicide. Officers intervened, spoke calmly and counselled her. She later opened the door and was comforted, averting tragedy. **–BMB**

Advancing Cardiac Surgery Through Precision, Innovation and Experience

Dr Vivek Jawali, Chairman – Cardiothoracic and vascular Sciences, Fortis Hospitals, Bengaluru

Receiving the 'Excellence in Transformative Cardiac Surgery and Clinical Leadership' recognition is a proud moment for the cardiac sciences team at Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, says Dr Vivek Jawali, Chairman – Cardiovascular Sciences. The recognition reflects the department's long-standing commitment to advancing complex cardiac care through surgical innovation, clinical precision and consistently improving patient outcomes.

According to Dr Jawali, cardiovascular disease continues to remain one of the leading health challenges worldwide, but the way it is treated today has evolved dramatically. Modern cardiac surgery is no longer limited to large incisions and prolonged recovery periods. Advances in surgical techniques, imaging technologies and perioperative care have transformed cardiac procedures into highly precise interventions that allow patients to recover faster and return to normal life sooner.

Incidentally, Dr Jawali himself has been a pioneer in shaping the evolution of cardiac surgery in India. He was a trendsetter in the field, having performed India's first beating-heart bypass surgery in 1991 and later India's first minimally invasive bypass surgery in 1995. These landmark procedures marked important milestones in the country's cardiac surgical landscape and paved the way for less invasive and more patient-friendly approaches to heart surgery.

One of the most significant developments in cardiac surgery today is the adoption of minimally invasive and beating-heart procedures. These techniques allow surgeons to perform complex operations through smaller incisions while avoiding the need for stopping the heart in selected cases. The result is reduced trauma to the body, lower risk of complications, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery.

"Cardiac surgery today is about precision and patient-centric care," explains Dr Jawali. "With modern imaging, improved surgical tools and refined operative strategies, we are able to treat complex heart conditions while minimising the impact of surgery on the patient."

Another major advancement is the integration of high-resolution imaging and advanced diagnostics in surgical planning. Detailed imaging of coronary arteries, heart valves and cardiac structures allows surgeons to design a highly personalised surgical approach for each patient. This level of pre-operative planning significantly improves procedural accuracy and long-term outcomes.

Technological progress has also enhanced the treatment of complex heart valve diseases and coronary artery conditions. Surgeons today have access to advanced grafting techniques, improved valve repair methods and durable prosthetic valves that ensure better long-term performance. These innovations enable surgeons to treat patients with greater confidence, even in complicated cases involving multiple cardiac conditions.

At Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, cardiac care is delivered through a comprehensive cardiovascular programme that integrates advanced diagnostics, specialised cardiac operating theatres, experienced surgical teams and structured post-operative rehabilitation. Patients benefit from multidisciplinary evaluation, evidence-based treatment protocols and continuous monitoring that ensures the highest standards of safety and recovery.

Post-surgical recovery has also improved significantly due to enhanced recovery protocols, improved anaesthesia techniques and early mobilisation strategies. Many patients are now able to begin rehabilitation sooner, regain strength faster and return to their daily routines within a shorter timeframe than was possible a decade ago.

Dr Jawali emphasises that early diagnosis and timely treatment remain critical in managing heart disease. Symptoms such as persistent chest pain, breathlessness, fatigue or reduced exercise capacity should not be ignored, as timely intervention can prevent severe complications and improve long-term survival.

"With advancements in surgical techniques, technology and patient care pathways, cardiac surgery today is safer, more precise and more outcome-focused than ever before," he says. "Our goal is not only to treat heart disease, but to restore quality of life and help patients return to active, healthy lives."

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India's Cancer Care Story: Infrastructure, Innovation & Care Without Borders

Dr Niti Raizada, Rrincipal Director – Medical Oncology & Hemato Oncology, Fortis Hospitals, Bengaluru

Receiving the 'Excellence in Transformative Precision Oncology & Advanced Hematology' award is a proud milestone for the team at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, says Dr Niti Raizada, Principal Director – Medical Oncology & Hemato Oncology, Fortis Hospitals, Bengaluru. The recognition reflects the institution's sustained commitment to personalised, technology-driven cancer care and advanced therapies designed to improve patient outcomes across complex oncological and hematological conditions.

According to Dr Raizada, the past decade has marked a remarkable transformation in India's cancer care landscape. What was once considered a highly specialised service concentrated in a few metropolitan centres is now steadily evolving into a robust, accessible and patient-centric ecosystem. This transformation, she notes, is being shaped by three defining pillars: strengthened infrastructure, meaningful scientific innovation and a commitment to deliver care without borders.

One of the most significant advancements has been the development of comprehensive cancer infrastructure. Across India, dedicated cancer centres now offer the full continuum of care — from early detection and advanced diagnostics to precision therapeutics and survivorship programmes. At Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, patients benefit from a multidisciplinary tumour board model, where medical oncologists, hemato-oncologists, surgical oncologists, radiation specialists, pathologists, radiologists and supportive care experts collaborate to create personalised treatment strategies tailored to each patient's disease biology and overall health.

Innovation has further accelerated progress in oncology. Advances in molecular diagnostics, next-generation sequencing and precision oncology have fundamentally reshaped how cancers are classified and treated. Targeted therapies and immunotherapies once accessible only in select global institutions are now integrated into mainstream clinical practice at leading Indian centres, including Fortis Bannerghatta Road. By aligning treatment to the genetic and molecular profile of a tumour, clinicians are able to enhance therapeutic effectiveness while reducing unnecessary toxicity.

Technology continues to elevate both outcomes and patient experience. High-end imaging platforms such as PET-CT and multiparametric MRI enable early and accurate detection. Advanced radiotherapy techniques including IMRT and IGRT deliver focused treatment with remarkable precision, minimising exposure to surrounding healthy tissues. Equally important is the integration of comprehensive supportive services — pain management, palliative care, psychosocial counselling, nutritional support and rehabilitation — ensuring that cancer care addresses the whole person, not just the disease.

Dr Raizada emphasises that one of the most encouraging aspects of India's cancer care evolution is its expanding reach. With telemedicine consultations, digital second opinions and structured referral networks, access to advanced oncology expertise is no longer restricted by geography. Patients from smaller towns and neighbouring regions are increasingly able to receive world-class evaluation and treatment planning without the barriers once associated with travel and logistics.

"At its core, cancer care is where science and humanity must work together," she says. "It is about combining clinical excellence with empathy, dignity and hope."

As infrastructure strengthens and innovation continues to advance, India's cancer care trajectory is becoming increasingly clear, more precise, more personalised and more accessible. At Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, this vision translates into everyday practice, delivering oncology services that meet global standards while remaining deeply rooted in compassionate care.

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Robotic Surgery in Urological Cancers: Better Precision, Faster Recovery

Receiving the Service Excellence in Robotic Urological Surgery & Kidney Transplant award is a proud milestone for the team at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, says Dr Mohan Keshavamurthy, Principal Director – Renal Sciences, Fortis Hospitals, Bengaluru. The recognition, he notes, reflects the department's sustained commitment to innovation, precision-led surgery and delivering excellent individualised clinical outcomes in complex urological cancers and transplant care.

According to Dr Mohan, urological cancers such as prostate, kidney and bladder cancer are increasingly being diagnosed in India, often at stages where timely surgical intervention can significantly improve survival and quality of life. Surgical science has evolved rapidly over the years, and robotic-assisted surgery now represents one of the most transformative advancements in the management of these cancers.

He explains that robotic surgery is not an automated system performing surgery independently, but a highly advanced platform completely controlled by the surgeon. "The robotic interface enhances the surgeon's hand movements into highly refined, precise micro-movements, while providing magnified three-dimensional visualisation," he says. Compared to open surgery, procedures are performed through small keyhole incisions. Compared to conventional laparoscopy, robotic technology offers superior dexterity and precision — advantages that are particularly critical in delicate anatomical areas such as the pelvis, where nerves, blood vessels and urinary structures are closely packed.

Robotic surgery is most commonly performed for prostate cancer through robotic radical prostatectomy. It is also widely used for kidney cancers, particularly in robotic partial nephrectomy, where only the tumour is removed while preserving the healthy kidney tissue. In selected cases, robotic techniques are employed for complex bladder cancer surgeries and reconstructive procedures.

At Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, patients benefit from an integrated renal sciences programme that combines robotic surgical expertise, advanced imaging, multidisciplinary tumour board planning, skilled anaesthesia and structured post-operative rehabilitation. The focus, Dr Mohan emphasises, extends beyond cancer removal. "Our goal is to achieve oncological clearance while preserving urinary continence, sexual function and kidney function wherever possible, thereby maintaining overall quality of life."

For patients, the benefits are often evident — less pain, reduced blood loss, smaller scars, fewer complications and shorter hospital stays. Many are able to mobilise within 24 hours, resume light daily activities within one to two weeks, and return to work sooner than after conventional open surgery, depending on the procedure and individual health status.

Addressing common concerns, Dr Mohan clarifies that robotic surgery is not experimental and is as effective as traditional surgical approaches in achieving cancer control. In fact, for many urological cancers, robotic surgery enables precise tumour removal while minimising trauma to surrounding tissues. Safety outcomes are particularly strong when procedures are performed by experienced teams in centres equipped with comprehensive critical care support.

However, he notes that robotic surgery is not suitable for every patient. The choice of treatment depends on tumour stage, location, prior surgical history, overall fitness and associated medical conditions. Careful evaluation and multidisciplinary discussion remain essential in determining the most appropriate approach.

Dr Mohan Keshavamurthy,, Principal Director – Renal Sciences, Fortis Hospitals, Bengaluru

Looking ahead, Dr Mohan believes robotic technology will continue to redefine cancer surgery in India, enabling organ-preserving procedures, faster recovery pathways and improved long-term outcomes. "For urological cancers, robotic surgery represents a significant advancement — combining surgical precision with enhanced patient comfort and recovery," he concludes.

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New Innovations in Joint Replacement: Faster Recovery, Better Movement

Receiving the 'Excellence in Robotic Joint Replacements and Innovation' award is a proud moment for the team at Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, says Dr Narayan Hulse, Principal Director – Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement Surgeon. The recognition reflects the department's sustained focus on precision robotics, surgical innovation and consistently improving patient outcomes in joint replacement surgery.

According to Dr Hulse, joint pain is no longer viewed as an unavoidable part of ageing. With greater awareness and rapid advancements in orthopaedic science, patients today seek solutions that allow them to remain active, independent and pain-free. Knee and hip replacement surgeries, in particular, have undergone significant transformation, making procedures safer, more precise and recovery considerably faster.

One of the most significant advancements is patient-specific pre-operative planning. Using high-resolution imaging and digital planning tools, surgeons are now able to map each patient's joint anatomy in detail before entering the operating theatre. This enables accurate implant positioning, improved alignment and restoration of a more natural range of motion. "Modern joint replacement is not merely about replacing a worn-out joint — it is about restoring biomechanics as close to normal as possible," Dr Hulse explains.

Robotic-assisted and navigation-based technologies have further enhanced surgical precision. These platforms allow surgeons to execute the pre-operative plan with high accuracy, particularly in complex cases or severe deformities. Proper alignment is critical, as it directly influences implant longevity, joint stability and long-term comfort. With robotic precision, variability is reduced and surgical consistency is significantly improved.

Implant technology has also evolved considerably. New-generation implants offer superior durability, enhanced wear resistance and improved functional mobility. As more patients undergoing joint replacement are younger and maintain active lifestyles, implant selection is increasingly personalised based on bone quality, activity levels and long-term expectations. The objective is not only pain relief, but sustained strength, stability and movement over many years.

At Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, joint replacement services are delivered through a comprehensive orthopaedics programme integrating advanced diagnostics, robotic surgical expertise, high-end modular operation theatres and structured rehabilitation support. Patients undergo thorough pre-surgical evaluation, personalised planning and evidence-based post-operative protocols designed to optimise outcomes.

Recovery pathways have also been refined through enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) protocols, multimodal pain management strategies and minimally invasive approaches in selected cases. These measures enable early mobilisation, reduced hospital stay and faster return to routine activities. Many patients are able to stand and walk with assistance within 24 hours and regain functional independence far sooner than in the past.

Dr Hulse emphasises that joint replacement should no longer be considered a "last resort." When persistent joint pain begins to limit walking, sleep, work or overall quality of life, timely surgical intervention can prevent further disability and improve long-term health outcomes.

Dr Narayan Hulse, Principal Director – Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement Surgeon, Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru

"With the integration of robotics, precision planning and advanced rehabilitation, joint replacement today is safer, more predictable and more outcome-driven than ever before," he says. "For patients, it represents not just relief from pain, but the opportunity to move freely again and return to a more active, fulfilling life."

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How to ruin a road: First put trash, then set it afire

City's prime road turns dumping ground as garbage fire destroys trees, exposing lapses in civic vigilance and enforcement

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KAUSHIK JN

Several trees near Lok Bhavan Road were damaged due to dry waste being set ablaze here

Lok Bhavan Road is one of the busiest and most important roads in the Central Business District (CBD) of the city. The road is expected to be free from garbage and fire hazards, and trees should be well nurtured to ensure greenery. However, vacant spots on Lok Bhavan Road have become dumping grounds, thereby undermining the efforts made by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) and others to keep the road free from all types of nuisance.

A vacant space adjacent to the compound wall of BSNL and the General Post Office (GPO) has become a dumping ground for dry waste. It is believed that the land belongs to Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). The accumulated dry waste caught fire two days ago, damaging six fully grown trees and a CCTV cable. "We do not know who is dumping waste on the land. It was ours, but BMRCL has acquired it. A fire incident occurred two days ago," said a senior divisional engineer at BSNL.

It is quite shocking that garbage continues to be dumped even after the fire incident. One can find single-use plastic and withered weeds at the site. "I will ask security personnel to keep an eye on the land. No one had brought it to my notice," said BMRCL Chief Public Relations Officer BL Yeshwanth Chavan. Meanwhile, environmentalists have expressed concern over the damage caused to the fully grown trees. They have urged the authorities to keep the land clean and well maintained. "I want the BSWML authorities to penalise those dumping garbage on the land on Lok Bhavan Road. It is quite disturbing to see fully grown trees that have been burnt," said Vijay Nishanth, an environmentalist.

Appealing to people, especially the security guards of Namma Metro, BSNL and GPO, to be ready to douse fires, Dattatreya T Devare, an environmentalist, said that setting garbage on fire has become common in many parts of the city. "Some people used to burn garbage near our apartment complex in Domlur. I used to carry water from home to douse the fire. So, people should make an effort to douse fires instead of waiting for Fire and Emergency Services personnel," he said.

Stating that Lok Bhavan Road is the heart of the city, but that the authorities are failing to keep it clean and well maintained, Vinod Jacob, an urban strategist, said that accountability must lie with the concerned government departments to safeguard green assets, including trees and plant life within their jurisdiction. "The irresponsible dumping and burning of waste has already led to fires that have destroyed fully grown trees and pose a serious threat to public safety. It is imperative that stricter vigilance is enforced and penalties imposed to ensure waste is managed responsibly and such incidents are prevented," he said.

However, BSWML Assistant General Manager Janardhan said that he was aware of the black spot on Lok Bhavan Road. "The land belongs to BMRCL. A few days ago, we attempted to clear heaps of garbage, but BMRCL employees told us they would clean the site themselves. I will speak to BMRCL authorities to ensure the area is kept clean and well maintained," he said.

On a roll or not? Mapping gaps raise red flags

Mapping mess deepens as civil groups flag discrepancies, secrecy, and potential disenfranchisement in Karnataka voter roll exercise

Iffath Fathima
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A coalition of civil society organisations under the banner My Vote, My Right has raised serious concerns over the ongoing voter roll mapping exercise in Karnataka. In a detailed letter addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) following a meeting held on March 26, 2026, the group has questioned both the data shared and the process being followed.

The coalition pointed out discrepancies in the figures presented by the CEO's office. While officials claimed that mapping of 4.46 crore voters out of 5.57 crore had been completed, the document shared reportedly shows that only 19.13 lakh voters have been "system and BLO verified." The group has questioned how such a large portion of the exercise can be marked as complete with limited verification, and noted that the document is not available in the public domain despite claims otherwise. Raising concerns about transparency, the coalition said there are no clear written guidelines or protocols from the Election Commission for conducting the mapping exercise. It has demanded that these guidelines be made public and that the data be regularly updated on official platforms. The letter also highlights the risk of exclusion of vulnerable groups. According to the coalition, the current mapping system may disproportionately affect women, Adivasis, migrant workers, and transgender persons. For instance, the structure of the mapping process reportedly allows only limited family linkages such as "son" or "daughter," which could leave many women unaccounted for.

Coalition questions data mismatch, flawed verification and missing guidelines, cautioning marginalised communities could be sidelined without urgent transparency and corrective action

Further, the requirement to trace names back to the 2002 voter rolls is seen as a major hurdle. The coalition cited instances from Kodagu district where members of certain Adivasi communities have not been mapped at all due to these constraints. Another issue raised is related to "progeny mapping." The coalition claims that this feature is restricted to voters aged between 18 and 39 years, leaving those above 40 with fewer options to verify their details. This, they argue, creates unnecessary barriers, especially for those who registered as voters later in life. Concerns were also expressed about the potential fallout of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. The group fears that voters who fail to complete mapping may be asked to produce one of the 11 prescribed documents as proof, which many from marginalised communities may not possess. To address this, they have demanded that the state government conduct panchayat-level camps to help citizens obtain necessary documents. The coalition also highlighted the challenges faced by Booth Level Officers (BLOs), including lack of clear instructions and mounting pressure. It has urged the Election Commission to hold regular meetings with BLOs and civil society groups to address on-ground issues.

Reiterating its stance, "My Vote, My Right" stated that SIR has led to "mass disenfranchisement" in several other states and union territories, and strongly opposed its implementation in Karnataka.

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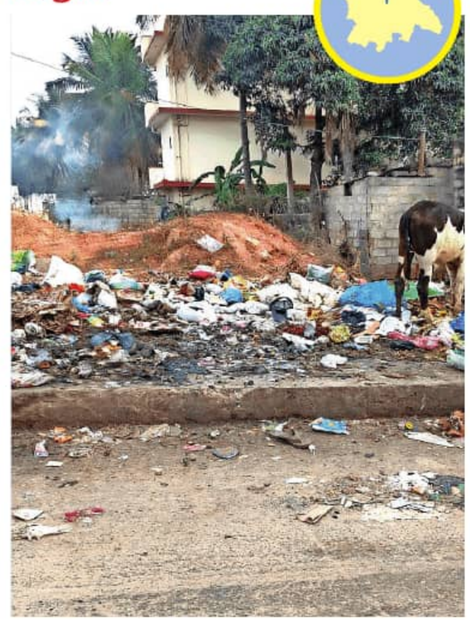

Garbage dumped between a temple and flower market at Kogilu signal highlights poor civic sense and irregular waste collection.

Sewer hazard
Avenue Road

An open, broken sewer cover near Prakash Studio on Avenue Road has remained unattended for months, causing blockages and safety risks.

Ad clutter
Jayanagar

Illegal banners continue to clutter public spaces across Jayanagar without enforcement action.

Serial bike thief nabbed, eight vehicles recovered

The Banaswadi Police have arrested a man involved in stealing eight two-wheelers worth ₹7.20 lakh across Bengaluru. The arrest followed a complaint filed on March 12 by a victim who discovered his vehicle missing after parking it near his office in Kammanahalli. Acting swiftly, police gathered credible leads and tracked down a suspect near New BEL Road, where he was apprehended.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to multiple thefts across the city, admitting his long involvement in organised vehicle crime. Police recovered all eight stolen two-wheelers on March 25 and 26, which were allegedly being transported for sale in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, where the accused is originally from.

Investigations revealed his involvement in at least six cases registered at KR Puram, RT Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Banaswadi, and Cantonment Railway police stations.

He was remanded in judicial custody on March 28, ensuring investigations continued without delay or disruption. — BMB

HC flags delay in child begging action, demands accountability

IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday expressed concern over the State government's failure to comply with its earlier direction to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate efforts addressing the issue of child begging, particularly in urban areas such as Bengaluru.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha questioned the delay while hearing a public interest litigation on children engaged in street-based activities like selling items at traffic signals. The court asked why its January 22, 2026 direction remained unimplemented and reminded the State, "Appoint a nodal officer and then coordinate, that's the direction, comply with it." The petition sought systemic intervention to prevent exploitation and ensure access to education and healthcare. The State said it formed a 12-member committee in March 2026, but the Bench said this did not meet its order. It also sought details on beggary cess funds and flagged delays in uploading the order. The matter remains pending, with the court seeking a detailed response on compliance and coordination efforts.

The Bench stressed that coordinated action across departments remains essential to tackle organised networks and rehabilitate affected children effectively. It warned that fragmented responses will weaken enforcement and delay meaningful relief measures.

Court pushes probe into IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri corruption allegations

The Karnataka High Court has directed the State government to grant sanction for initiating an FIR and investigation against senior IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri over allegations of corruption. The order came as the court heard a petition challenging the State's refusal to permit criminal proceedings. The Bench clarified that when allegations disclose a cognisable offence, authorities must allow investigation to proceed rather than stall it. It stressed that prior sanction cannot act as a shield to indefinitely delay or block registration of a criminal case.

The court observed that sanction protects honest officials from frivolous prosecution but cannot prevent scrutiny when serious allegations arise. It directed the State to reconsider and grant approval so investigative agencies can act promptly. The judges underscored that the criminal justice system must function independently, especially in cases involving public servants accused of wrongdoing. The case stems from complaints alleging irregularities and misuse of position during Sindhuri's tenure. During the hearing, the court noted that registering an FIR depends on information suggesting a cognisable offence, not proof of guilt, and said investigation must determine truth. — BMB

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No safety measures put in place before sending workers in

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

place. The heaps of garbage removed from the chamber lying on the lake bund is a sorry sight indeed.

Entering manholes or sewer chambers is prohibited by law. Workers are to be allowed to enter manhole or sewer chambers only after safety measures such as gas testing, ventilation, and full protective gear is ensured and that too it can be done only under the guidance of a supervisor or an engineer.

But, in this case, the lake maintenance contractor had engaged a few migrant workers to enter the chamber to clear plastic and garbage manually.

With the diversion channel choked with garbage and silt, dirty water had begun flowing back from the diversion channel and finally entering the lake. The lake that was rejuvenated recently by spending crores of rupees only recently was at danger of being completely trashed, so the authorities took the decision to get it cleaned.

Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BECC) Assistant Engineer Jayashree (CV Raman Nagar) told BM that a lake maintenance contractor informed her about the need to clear garbage and plastic from the diversion channel chamber. "We availed of the services of a BWSSB jetting machine to clear the channel but that didn't prove useful. The contractor did not inform me about making workers enter the chamber. I will advise the contractor not to allow workers to enter the chamber without safety measures," the Assistant Engineer said.

When informed, Karnataka State Commission for Safai Karamcharis Chairman P Raghu said the authorities should take safety measures before allowing workers to enter into the chambers or manholes. "I will speak with the BECC Commissioner on this issue," the Chairman said.

Natural food chain of birds, animals disturbed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and vocal presence have significantly reduced. From an estimated population of 250 to 300 birds just three to four years ago, there has been a suspected decline of nearly 40 to 50 per cent. Adding to the concern, carcasses of dead peacocks have reportedly been found at several locations within the campus over the past month.

Experts attribute this decline to multiple factors, primarily the growing concretisation within the campus, which has reduced green cover and disrupted the natural food chain. Narayan Kumar, a BU student, said, "Shrubs and vegetation that once provided food and shelter are disappearing, forcing wildlife to either migrate or struggle for survival. Increased vehicular movement is another concern, as the campus has become a shortcut route connecting Mysuru Road and Nagarabhavi, leading to noise pollution that disturbs the birds and pushes them away from their natural habitat."

Environmental degradation is further aggravated by human activity. "Plastic waste discarded by visitors and leftover food from canteens are polluting the surroundings, posing health risks to animals that may consume them. The rising number of stray dogs in the campus has also emerged as a major threat, with reports of dogs attacking peacocks and destroying their eggs, thereby affecting reproduction," said Vinuta Kumar, a regular walker.

Frequent fire incidents have compounded the problem. Over the past month alone, at least two such incidents have been reported, often caused by careless disposal of cigarette butts and beedis by visitors and cattle grazers. These fires have destroyed shrubs, nests, eggs and small wildlife, further destabilising the ecosystem.

Environmental experts have stressed the urgent need to create protected zones within the campus to safeguard peacocks and support their breeding. Authorities have informed the forest department and sought intervention to control stray dogs and implement conservation measures.

Dharmasthala case: No more action against YouTuber

The Karnataka High Court has stayed further proceedings against a YouTuber who was booked over a video discussing the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case.

The petitioner, Sameer MD, who operates the "Dootha" YouTube channel, approached the Court after an FIR was registered against him by Dharmasthala police. The complaint accuses him of circulating misleading content and causing public disturbance through his video on the sensitive allegations.

A single-judge bench directed that no further action be taken in the case for now and issued notice to the State government. The Court indicated that it would examine the content of the video before deciding on the legality of the proceedings.

The Court remarked that such matters should not be unnecessarily prolonged, signaling concern over drawn-out criminal proceedings in cases involving digital content. **BMB**

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I, Sohanlal Praveen Jain S/o Sohanlal R/o Flat No.B-416, heriitage Signature,4th Floor, Church Road, Shanthi nagar, wilson Garden Post, Bengaluru-560027 Have Changed My Name to Sohanlal Praveen Kumar Bohra for All Purposes.

I, ANESS AHAMED ABDUL FIDA, R/a.11, 4th Cross, Padarayanapura Bengaluru-26. I, have Changed my name to ANEES AHMED, Vide affidavit dated 31/03/2026 Sworn before Notary: M.K.Devaki. Bangalore

I, Sohanlal Praveen Kumar Bohra R/o Flat No.B-416, Heriitage Signature, 4th Floor, Church Road, Shanthi nagar, wilson Garden Post, Bengaluru -560027. Have Changed My Minor Son's name from Aayush Sohanlal Praveenkumar to Aayush for all purposes

I, Tanisha Jain Praveen R/o Sohanlal Praveen Kumar Bohra R/o Flat No. B-416, Heriitage Signature, 4th Floor, Church Road, Shanthinagar ,wilson Garden Post, Bengaluru-560027. Have Changed My Name to Tanisha Jain for All Purposes.

I, PRAVEEN, Residing at B15/123, U R Rao Road, near Sai baba temple, Domlur, Bangalore-560071 have changed my name to PRAVEEN PURANDAR HEGDE (PRAVEEN P HEGDE) vide affidavit dated: 01/04/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I Boosundra Thippeswamy Sumann S/O, Boosandar Shankarappa Thippeswamy R/o #66, Venkataswamy Layout, Priyanka Nagar, Seegehalli, Kr Puram Hobli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560049 have changed my name to Boosandar Thippeswamy Sumann.

I, Jyothi Praveenkumar W/o Sohanlal Praveen Kumar Bohra R/o Flat No.B-416, heriitage Signature,4th Floor, Church Road, Shanthinagar, wilson Garden Post, Bengaluru - 560027 Have Changed My Name to Jyothi for All Purposes.

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Rizvi, Stubbs prove stable anchor in chase limited to 141 by their team bowlers' excellent show against Lucknow

SOLID PARTNERSHIP DOES THE TRICK FOR DELHI

Batters almost undid the brilliant show put up by Delhi Capitals (DC) players against Lucknow Super Giants at the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on Wednesday, but Sameer Rizvi's stylish innings kept Delhi firmly on course in the chase. Tristan Stubbs proved to be a worthy partner as the duo managed to get their team home chasing a target of 141.

1. Delhi Capitals' Sameer Rizvi, right, and batting partner Tristan Stubbs celebrate; 2. Lucknow Super Giants' Prince Yadav, right, celebrates the dismissal of Delhi Capitals' captain Axar Patel; 3. Delhi Capitals' Mukesh Kumar celebrates with teammate KL Rahul after taking the catch of Lucknow Super Giants' Mohsin Khan

Ngidi, Natarajan's three each

DC produced a brilliant bowling effort as Lungi Ngidi and T Natarajan picked three wickets each to stop LSG at 141 in 18.4 overs .

Asked to bat first, LSG came up with a new opening batting pair as skipper Rishabh Pant promoted himself to the top order but was removed early in the innings of an unfortunate run out. A strange moment in what might have been a caught-and-bowled chance for Mitchell Marsh turned into a run-out. Mukesh Kumar got a slight touch on the ball, which hit the stumps at the non-striker's end, catching Pant short of his crease at seven runs.

Earlier, Mukesh Kumar set the tone with an exceptional start with the new ball, conceding less than a run a ball in three overs during the powerplay; he also got some swing and seam movement, but most importantly, he did not give Mitchell Marsh much room to work with outside off stump.

Today's battle
Kolkata Knight Riders
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Skipper Axar Patel then brought himself on to bowl to the right-handers and struck in standard style by deceiving Aiden Markram (11) with a skiddy, angled delivery that cramped his room and bowled him out after hitting him for a six on the previous ball before. Delhi Capitals capped off a strong first phase of the match by restricting LSG to 48/2 at the conclusion of the powerplay.

Ayush Badoni's stay was brief as LSG slipped to 49/3 in the seventh over, with the batter edging a regulation length delivery of T Natarjan slanting away outside off to the keeper while attempting to free his arms and go over the infield.

Ngidi recovered from a costly start to deliver a possible ball of the season. He tricked Nicholas Pooran (8) with a well-disguised dipping slower ball from round the wicket. The delivery angled into the stumps and completely confused Pooran. He committed early to the flick but realised too late that the ball hadn't reached him, leaving him unable to adjust in time.

Debutant Mukul Choudhary (14) showed great intent early, hitting a reverse scoop four followed by another boundary behind the wicket to Kuldeep, and added 34 runs with Abdul Samad. However, he was removed in the next over as Kuldeep tricked him with a googly, only to edge it back to the bowler.

Samad showed some fight till the end, but was removed by Natarajan for 36 as the rest of the batters fell for just three runs in the end. Ngidi and Natarjan starred with the ball for Delhi, picking three wickets each after Yadav picked two.

HIGHLIGHTS

Shreyas fined Rs 12 lakh for slow over-rate offence

Punjab Kings (PBKS) captain Shreyas Iyer has been fined after his team fell behind the required over-rate during the fourth match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 against Gujarat Titans (GT) at the New International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh.

PBKS defeated the 2022 champions by three wickets after chasing down a 163-run target in 19.1 overs. However, Iyer faced repercussions for maintaining a slow over-rate in the first innings, resulting in a breach of the IPL's code of conduct.

"Punjab Kings (PBKS) Captain Shreyas Iyer has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate against Gujarat Titans (GT) in Match 4 at the New International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh.

"As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Iyer was fined Rs. 12 lakhs," IPL said in a statement. **–IANS**

KKR feeling Green blues

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) head coach Abhishek Nayar said it was 'just unfortunate' that Australian all-rounder Cameron Green has not been able to bowl so far in the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL), adding that the franchise's long-term plan was for him to be identified as a replacement for Andre Russell.

Green, purchased by KKR for a jaw-dropping Rs 25.2 crore at last year's IPL auction, didn't bowl an over in their season opening six-wicket defeat to Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday, with Cricket Australia (CA) confirming that his bowling duties are restricted at the moment due to a 'lower back injury' and can resume it after 10-12 days.

"There are things that sometimes are very unfortunate; it's not in your control, but that's the sport, and that's the beauty of the sport. So, we always consider best-case scenarios. Yes, you want back-ups; you pick players who do certain things. **–IANS**

Woke up with little bit of nerves, Ponting kept me calm, says Connolly

After dazzling with a match-winning 72 on his IPL debut to give Punjab Kings a three-wicket win over Gujarat Titans, batting all-rounder Cooper Connolly said head coach Ricky Ponting's guidance helped him stay calm and collected, which in turn cooled down the nerves he had on the morning of the clash.

Connolly struck an unbeaten 72 off 44 balls and held his nerve in a chase of 163 after PBKS suffered a middle-order wobble. "I woke up in the morning with a little bit of nerves, which I was really happy about, but yeah, I was really looking forward to getting out there and playing my part the best I can.

"Ricky Ponting just kept me calm and collected. He told me to play my game, go out there and dominate. It was a nice team performance. We were very strong with the ball and made things easier for ourselves. It was a really good day for us.

"I was looking forward to spending time out in the middle with Shreyas Iyer and just sort of picking his brains a little bit. He's a world-class player. I've played a little bit of cricket with him for Australia A and Australia. He is a great player for a reason, and hopefully, I can learn as much as I can," said Connolly on JioHotstar.

Connolly's successful debut for PBKS carried similarities of how his childhood hero Shaun Marsh fared in his very first IPL game. Both began their IPL journeys with PBKS, marked their first appearance with half-centuries, and came in successful run chases. Both stayed unbeaten to see their side home, and were named Player of the Match for their efforts.

In emulating Marsh, Connolly announced himself on the IPL stage with a bang. "It was a nice moment when I got picked up. Shaun Marsh was the first person I spoke to about it and he gave me some good words. Growing up, I played at Western Australia with him for a long period of time and he has always been good to me.

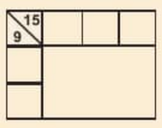
"I looked up to him as a mentor and an idol and really enjoyed spending some time with him. It's nice to be among the runs. There are still plenty of games to go and I am really looking forward to the rest of the tournament," he added. **–IANS**

Punjab Kings' Australian cricket player Cooper Connolly celebrates after scoring a half-century in the match against Gujarat Titans

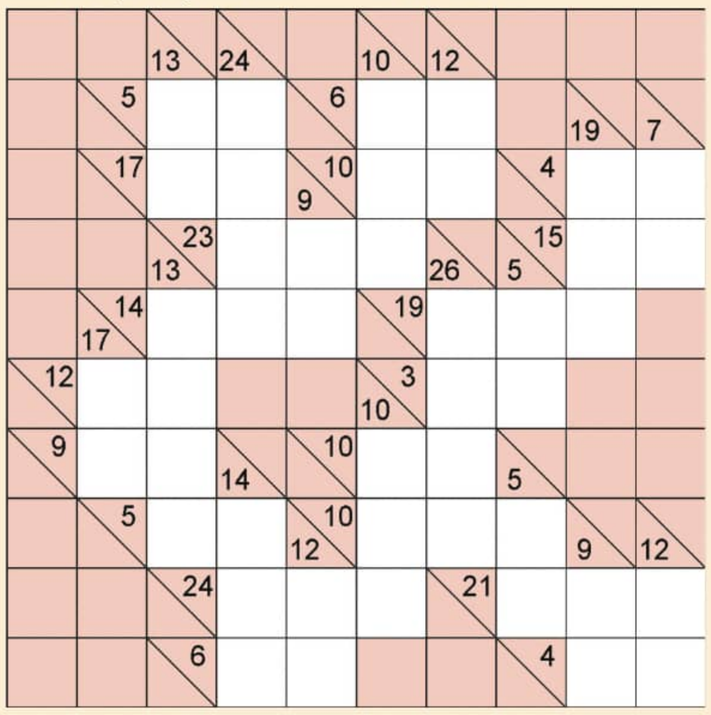
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

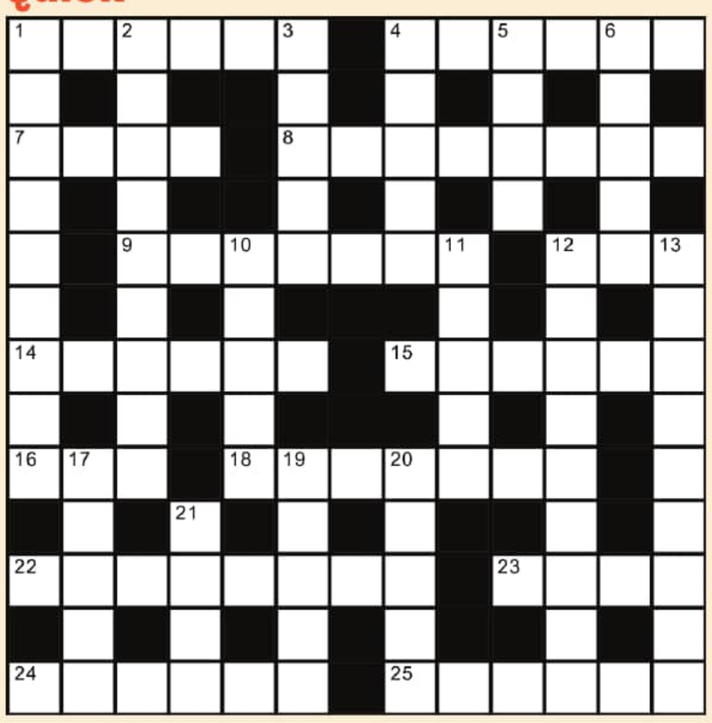
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Emulated a cartographer (6)
4 Father of the Nation (6)
7 A prophet or an oracle (4)
8 Humiliating (8)
9 Legendary pop-star ___ Jackson (7)
12 Flit about (3)
14 One who models in clay? (6)
15 Scopes or extents; bounds (6)
16 Popular TV show hosted by Big B (3)
18 Hard to deal with; perilous (7)
22 Kolkata's old name (8)
23 Leo Tolstoy's ___ Karenina (4)
24 Arises (4,2)
25 Endorse (6)

DOWN

1 Popular dessert in Karnataka and the rest of the country as well (6,3)
2 Operated by compressed air (9)
3 Demise (5)
4 Prayer before meal (5)
5 Ms Dhupia of Bollywood (4)
6 Reddish dye (5)
10 Chirp (5)
11 Intermediate place (5)
12 Musical sliding effect (9)
13 Ignore (9)
17 Face or defy (5)
19 Misbehave (3,2)
20 Seeps or oozes out (5)
21 Deeds (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

RV RI HACUIRJMPWU VX PUWRUZU M EJX.EXIRVRXA GLUA VLUJU RI AX OJXHAC GLM.VIXUZUJ DXJ IHEEXIRAO RV RI VJHU.

Linemaro

You must be the square root of two. Because I feel irrational around you.

Mindchow

The cutting of the gem has to be finished before you can see whether it shines

Joke of the day

What do you get with a fist and a long piece of wire? A bad punchline

Loop

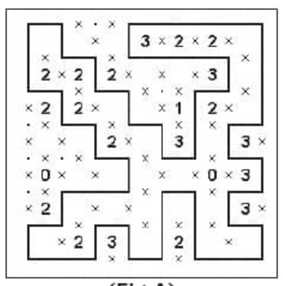
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

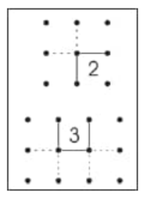
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

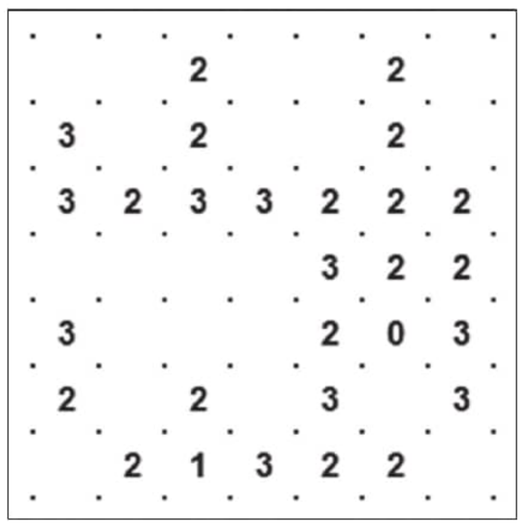
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



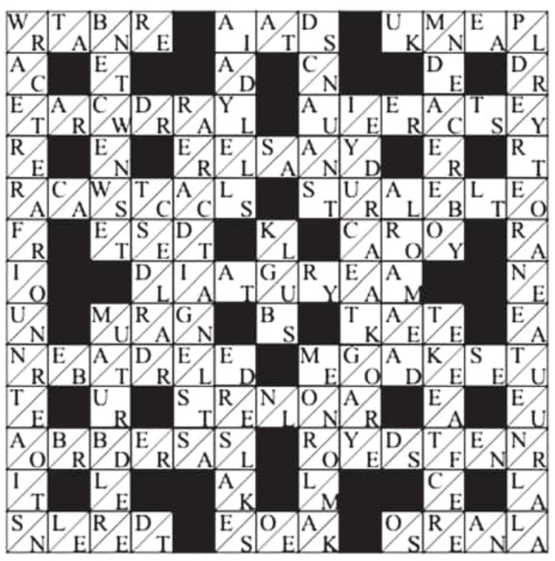
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



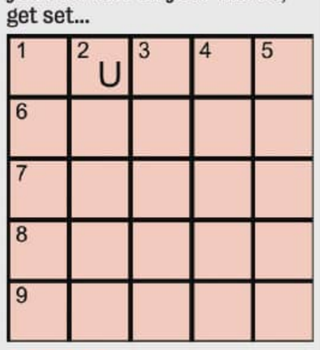
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

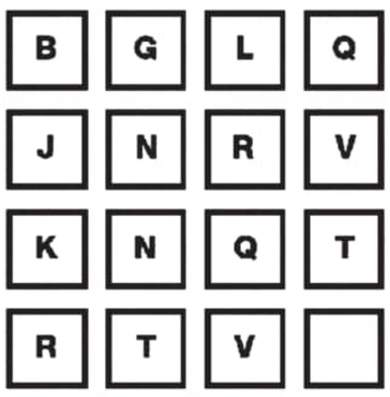
1 Truss; 6 In tin; 7 Far me; 8 If ref; 9 R spun

DOWN

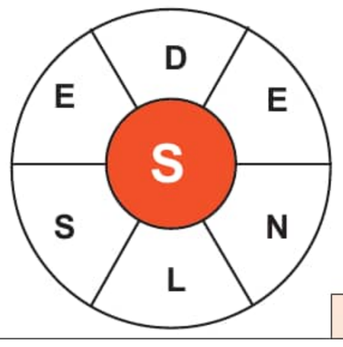
1 F Firs; 2 Pl Run; 3 Fauns; 4 Remit; 5 Rents

Mensapuzzle

Which letter should be placed in the empty square?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2	3						6	9
	4						5	
			3	6	1			
8	5			3			1	6
4				2				8
6	1			9			4	2
			9	1	7			
	2						9	
5	9						8	3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5

1 6 6 4

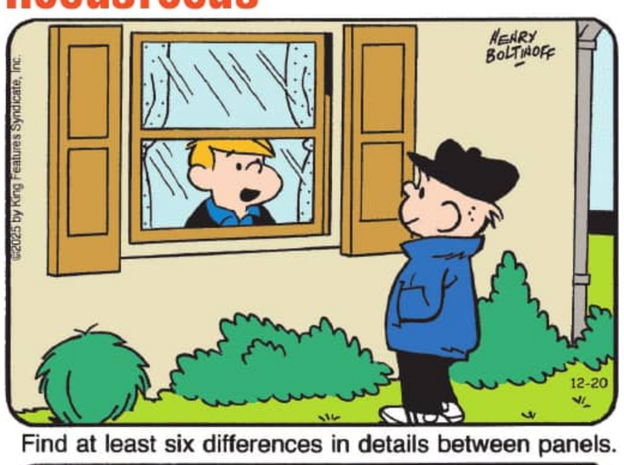
Medium = 21

8 8 9 4

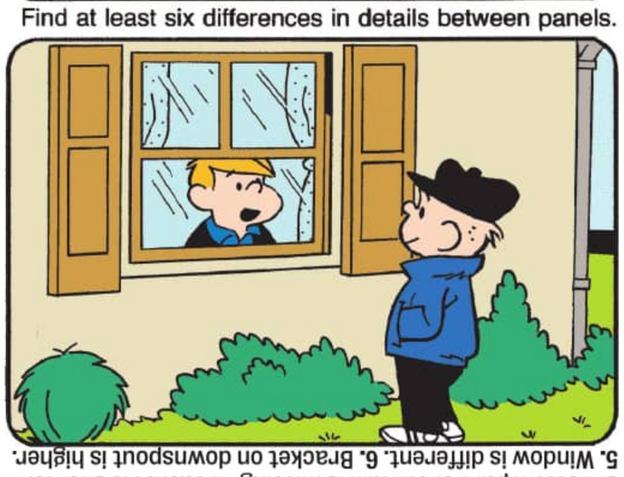
Hard = 9

2 4 6 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



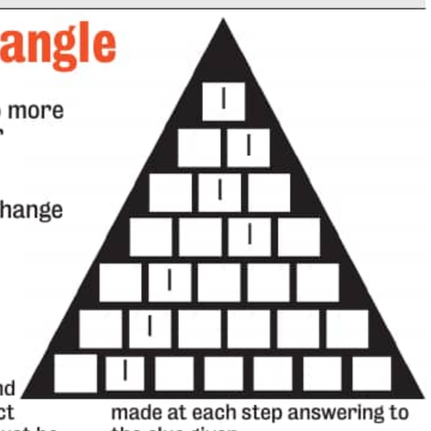
Differences: 1. Shutter is different. 2. Bush is moved. 3. Bottom part of curtain is missing. 4. Jacket is shorter. 5. Window is different. 6. Bracket on downspout is higher.

Riddler

I hover out there in darkness unseen. I will shred things to pieces 'till they're just smithereens. I might serve as a gateway to places unspoken, Yet I'm sealed off to man, forever unbroken. I twist and distort, only darkness escapes, I destroy all I find Whatever I take. Who or what am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel
2 Princess, alas no more
3 Removable cover
4 Lost traction
5 Move furtively
6 On the stock exchange
7 Thins out

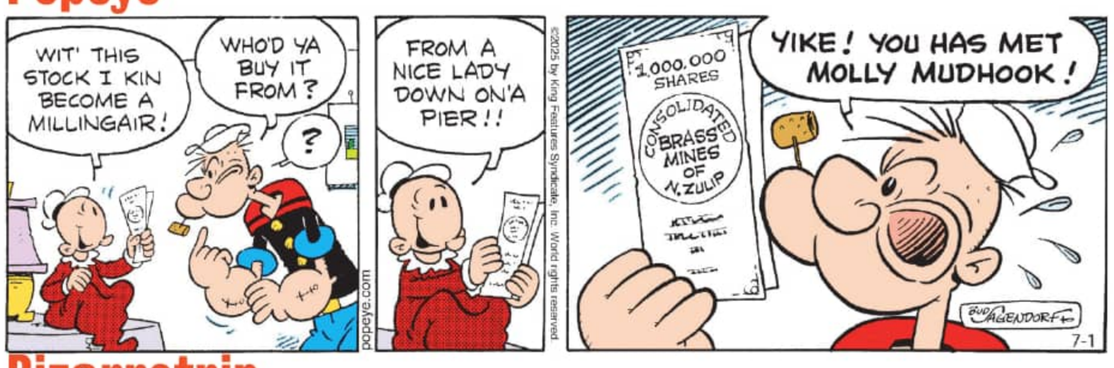


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


WIT' THIS STOCK I KIN BECOME A MILLINGAIR!
WHO'D YA BUY IT FROM?
?
FROM A NICE LADY DOWN ON'A PIER!!
1,000,000 SHARES
CONSOLIDATED BRASS MINES OF N. ZULIP
YIKE! YOU HAS MET MOLLY MUDHOOK!
BUD SAGENDORF
7-1
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

OKAY, HERMAN, IF YOU COVER YOUR EYES, I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS
OH, BOY!
©2014 creators.com
12/20
SMOOOOOOOOOOOOOCH
www.creators.com
Bagnkstt
NO OFFENSE, LIL, BUT A TIC TAC OR TWO MIGHT JUST BE IN ORDER

Hart of the city

IT'S DECIDED. I'M THROWING DEAN A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY. I'LL TALK TO HIS PARENTS.
I'LL HANDLE INVITATIONS. KAT, YOU GOTTA KEEP DEAN DISTRACTED BEFORE HE GOES HOME!
HOW DO I DO THAT??
ASK HIM TO NAME HIS FAVORITE STAR WARS MOVIES IN ORDER AND WHY. THAT'LL BUY US AT LEAST AN HOUR.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STRAIGHT TO THE BLUE TENT FOR HIM!
I'M THINKING THAT CPR IS PRETTY MUCH OUT OF THE QUESTION!
12-20
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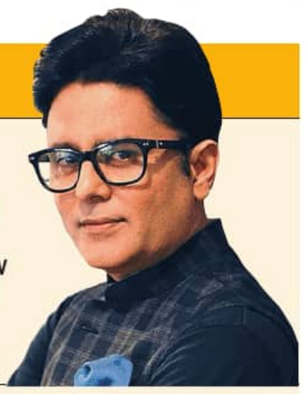
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your birthday opens a year of fresh momentum and unexpected possibilities. Travel plans begin forming sooner than you think, possibly linked to work opportunities. Romance feels warm and reassuring today, while finances show steady improvement through smart decisions. At home, laughter and shared meals restore your energy. Celebrate boldly; the year ahead rewards courage, curiosity, and consistent effort daily dedication.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Confidence shapes how you approach life, Aries. Today you may feel unusually self-assured, comfortable, and capable. Past doubts fade away, allowing confidence to guide you toward fortunate opportunities and meaningful conversations.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Your spiritual world deserves attention now, Taurus. Connecting with uplifting people or meaningful beliefs can refresh your perspective. Release outdated philosophies and embrace inner reflection to move toward a lighter, happier version of yourself.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

You may discover a community that truly understands you, Gemini. Shared goals and supportive people can inspire progress toward your dreams. Collective effort strengthens everyone involved, proving how powerful collaboration becomes.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

How others perceive you depends on what you reveal, Cancer. Express your emotional, creative, or spiritual side honestly. Though vulnerability feels risky, sharing your authentic self can strengthen meaningful bonds with loved ones.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Growth requires humility, Leo. Whether expert or beginner, staying curious allows you to expand your knowledge. Pride may resist change, but embracing new experiences keeps learning alive and personal development moving forward.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Collaborative opportunities are highlighted now, Virgo. Partnerships, investments, or mentorships may appear. While careful attention to details remains important, success grows through teamwork, trust, and mutual accountability within shared ventures.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Your desires deserve to be heard, Libra. Instead of suppressing them within relationships, communicate openly with friends, partners, or housemates. Honest expression deepens understanding and ensures your needs receive proper recognition.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

A deeper understanding of someone may emerge today, Scorpio. A connection once distant or tense could reveal unexpected layers. Listen carefully before sharing your own perspective; attentive listening strengthens genuine understanding.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Social invitations and enjoyable experiences surround you today, Sagittarius. Friends want to celebrate and share adventures. Just remember moderation; pacing yourself ensures you enjoy every moment without regretting excess later.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Progress today may appear simple rather than glamorous, Capricorn. Completing household tasks or organizing responsibilities brings genuine satisfaction. Practical accomplishments, especially with help from loved ones, create rewarding momentum.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

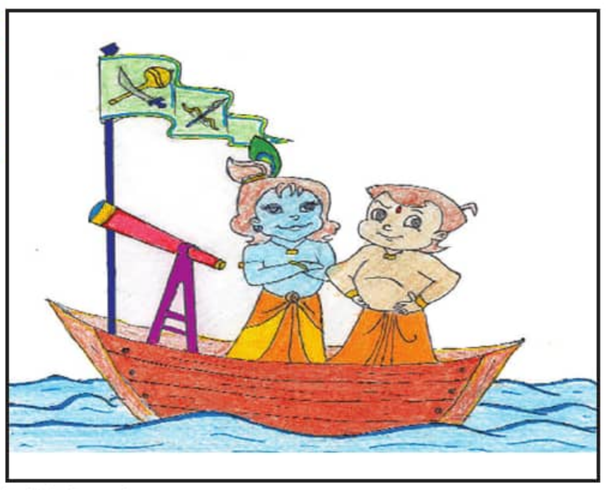
Humor becomes your superpower today, Aquarius. Creative expression through jokes, stories, or playful art can lighten difficult situations. Turning frustration into laughter strengthens connections and reminds everyone how healing joy can be.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

You don't need perfect plans today, Pisces. Allow yourself to experience each moment naturally, appreciating small encounters and spontaneous choices. Feeling comfortable simply being present reveals unexpected beauty and calm.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Rohith, Bengaluru

Harshika, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(10!+11+10!+12×11×10!) / 10! × 4!
144 / 24 = 6

BULL'S EYE

dense, else, sled, ENDLESS, less, lessen, seed, seen, send, sense, sensed,

RIDDLER

A black hole.

FAST FIVE

S	P	U	R	N
F	I	F	E	R
E	M	A	R	F
T	I	N	N	I
S	T	S	U	R

STRIKE OUT

N	E	E	D		S	E	A		O	R	A	L		
I		L		K		L		E		A				
A	B	B	E	S	S		O	Y	S	T	E	R		
T		R		S	E	N	O	R		E		U		
N	E	A	R	E	D		M	O	D	E	S	T		
U		M	A	N		B		T	E	T		A		
O		D	I	A	G	R	A	M				N		
	F	T	E	D		K		C	R	Y		R		
R	A	S	C	A	L		S	U	A	B	L	E		
E		E		E	L	A	N	D		R		T		
T	A	W	D	R	Y		A	E	R	A	T	E		
A		E		D		C		E		R				
W	A	N	E		I	T	S		K	N	A	P		

QUICK

G	E	T	S	U	P		S	E	C	O	N	D		
	V		T		U		K			D		R		
C	A	L	C	U	T	T	A		A	N	N	A		
	R		A		C		E			A		G		
K	B	C		P	A	R	L	O	U	S		E		
A		I		E		B		S		B		R		
P	O	T	T	E	R		A	M	B	I	T	S		
E		H		A			I		L		I			
R		M	I	C	H	A	E	L		G	A	D		
O		U		T		C		A		N				
S	E	E	R		A	B	A	S	H	I	N	G		
Y		N		E		R		E		E				
M	A	P	P	E	D		G	A	N	D	H	I		

MENSA PUZZLE

X. In rows letters in the first line increase by steps of 5 from left to right, the second row in steps of 4, the next by three and the bottom line by 2.

QUOTE UNCODE

It is undesirable to believe a proposition when there is no ground whatsoever for supposing it is true.

SUDOKU

2	3	1	4	7	5	8	6	9
7	4	6	2	8	9	3	5	1
9	8	5	3	6	1	2	7	4
8	5	2	7	3	4	9	1	6
4	7	9	1	2	6	5	3	8
6	1	3	5	9	8	7	4	2
3	6	8	9	1	7	4	2	5
1	2	4	8	5	3	6	9	7
5	9	7	6	4	2	1	8	3

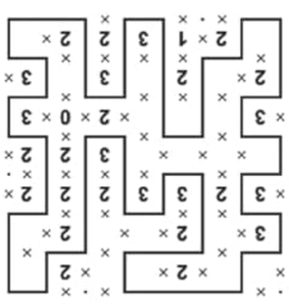
ALPHA TRIANGLE

I, Di, Lid, Slid, Slide, Listed, Dilutes.

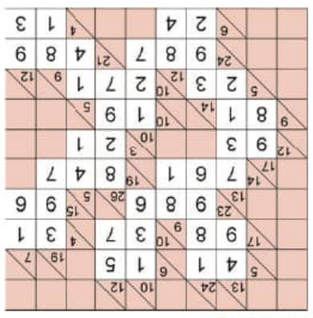
GO FIGURE

Easy
4 - 6 + 6 + 1 = 5
Medium
9 + 8 + 8 - 4 = 21
Hard
2 x 6 - 7 + 4 = 9

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Spare some mystery
Actress Sharon Stone is not fond of intimate scenes on screen. She shared she "fast-forwards" through sex scenes as she wants to maintain the "mystery"

STAY TRUE TO YOUR CRAFT

Bhumi Pednekar says she is not in it for fleeting fame

Bhumi Pednekar began her career as a casting assistant at Yash Raj Films before making her acting debut with 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha' in 2015. Over the years, she has carved a niche for herself with diverse roles and strong performances. The actress has now opened up about her evolving priorities, revealing that she now places health and well-being above film roles. Speaking with ANI at the International Film Festival Delhi (IFFD) 2026, the actor opened up on her journey in the industry and how her approach towards fitness and career choices has changed over the years.

The actor spoke about her journey and the lessons she has learned along the way. She emphasised the importance of staying true to one's craft rather than chasing fleeting relevance in the industry.

Speaking about her perspective on success, Bhumi shared a thoughtful message. She said, "I think the biggest thing is that you should not stay relevant; you should just stay true to your craft, because relevance is very short lived. And it's exhausting. How long will you keep staying relevant? What's important is finding what your true talent is, understanding the artist in you. And constantly doing riyaz so that that never goes,"

Bhumi has often been in the spotlight for her weight fluctuations, which were sometimes linked to her film roles. Addressing her recent weight loss, she explained the shift in her priorities. "I was doing this for many years, where I was increasing my weight, reducing it. Now I have reduced it a little, because as a woman, as your age increases, your body's ability to take that weight gain and weight loss reduces. So now I prioritise my health and my body over the parts, because at some age, women have to start doing that," she said.

—ETimes

Sweet coincidence

Actor Ranbir Kapoor says his first reaction when he was offered the role of Lord Ram in the upcoming "Ramayana" was one of self-doubt but becoming a father helped turn that hesitation into a sense of purpose.

Speaking at a special IMAX teaser screening of the film in New York, Ranbir said the offer came about four years ago and left him feeling unprepared. "I remember when Namit offered me this part around four years back, my instant reaction was: 'I am not fit enough, good enough.' I felt I wouldn't be able to do full justice. But that fear quickly turned into gratitude because opportunities like this were something I truly needed in my life," he said.

The actor said his personal life and the role became intertwined in an unexpected way. "There was a period when I needed to change my lifestyle. I had just become a father for the first time. The sweet coincidence of playing Lord Ram and becoming a father became a turning point in my life," said Ranbir, who became a father in November 2022. —PTI

Rebel Wilson: Don't think I'll ever have a bikini body

Hollywood star Rebel Wilson realised that she will never have a "bikini body". The 46-year-old star shared a positive message about body image to her Instagram Stories on and she expressed her gratitude to her anatomy for getting her through life.

Wilson wrote: "I don't think I'll ever have a bikini body - that's just not me. But my body has carried me through this life and I am so grateful for it." The actress, who previously lost 60 pounds during her "year of health" in 2020, said that she has been making lifestyle changes but is also reliant on weight-loss medication, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Wilson penned: "I'm trying to get my daily steps, do a Pilates class once or twice a week, some strength training when I can, eat as healthy as I can. But let's face it I love sweets so I need those GLP's from time to time to give a little help." She said that she was more concerned about being healthier rather than concentrating on the scales when she lost a lot of weight in 2020.

She told people.com at the time: "You never want it to be about the number, because it really isn't about that. It's about: I was doing some unhealthy things to my body and I just wanted to change it and become a healthier person."

Wilson shared that last year how "healthy habits" are pivotal for both her physical and mental health.

The Bridesmaids star said in a message to her Instagram followers: "Ok, so you delete some things from your life that are unhealthy and pick up some healthy habits." —IANS

NEGATIVE ENERGY

Radhikka Madan has now spoken strongly against the growing trend of paid negative PR in the film industry. The actress said she never wants to have so much free time that she starts planning bad things about others and believes one should focus on their own work instead of pulling others down. Radhikka shared her views in a recent interview with News 18.

Radhikka gave a clear reply on negative PR, "May God never give me so much free time that I start doing things like this. Please, God, never leave me so idle that I sit and plan what bad things I should say about others. I truly believe you can never rise by pulling someone else down. Keep working hard, keep doing your work with honesty, and keep growing." She feels people should stay busy with their own journey. Radhikka believes there is enough room at the top for many people, "I have always been someone who lifts people up..." —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Date with big screen

The team members of Elra Kaaleliyatte Kaala unveiled one song from the film at MMB Legacy on Tuesday. The movie is directed by Sujay Shastry while rapper-turned-actor Chandan Shetty plays the protagonist and Archana Kottige is paired opposite him. The movie, backed by Govindaraju under the Gokula Entertainers banner, is scheduled to arrive in theaters on April 17.

Shastry, known for his comic roles, said the release of the movie has been delayed due to some reasons. "The movie is set against the backdrop of the 1990s and was filmed in and around Kanakapura. My friend Rajaguru has written its script and it is Chandan Shetty's first movie as a hero. I thank producer Govindaraju for giving us all amenities," said Shastry.

Shetty said he has worked hard fpr the role. "The movie highlights what happens if people are not punctual. The song - Maathu Madhura - is melodious," Shetty said.

50-day feat

It is quite heartening when low-budget movies become big box-office successes. The team of Maggi Pustaka celebrated the movie successfully screened for 50 days at 13 theaters across the state at Utsav Legacy on Tuesday to celebrate the success.

The movie is about the plight of Avani from a poor family. Director Harivarasanam has adapted Avani, a novel written by him, for this movie which conveys a good message to parents and children. As of now, the movie Maggi Pustaka continues to be screened in North Karnataka.

"I hope the movie will complete 100 days of screening. As of now, it is being screened at 13 theaters. We plan to increase the number of theaters during summer holidays. I thank the film's cast and crew ," said Harivarasanam.

Music director Yashas Nachappa said that he was very happy with the success of his maiden movie. "Maggina Pustaka has 7 songs for which I engaged 17 singers," said the music director.

Congratulating the director, cinematographer Nandakumar said it is his first movie to be screened for 50 days.